

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, SWEL, CA

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: "CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DISABILITY
PENSION PLAN"

1. THE GAO HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, IT IS REVIEWING ALTERNATIVES TO THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, THE GAO WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE CANADA PENSION PLAN ADMINISTRATION TO OBTAIN A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DISABILITY PENSION PLAN.

2. MAJOR TOPIC AREAS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS WILL INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. ORGANIZATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, HOW THE CANADIAN DISABILITY PENSION PROGRAM IS ORGANIZED;

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2. APPLICATION PROCESS: HOW CLAIMANT APPLIES FOR DISABILITY PAYMENTS;

3. GOVERNMENT'S DISABILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS: HOW THE CLAIM IS REVIEWED AND DECISION REACHED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT;

4. THE APPEALS PROCESS: HOW A CLAIMANT APPEALS AN

ADVERSE DECISION BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENTS' STRUCTURE FOR REVIEWING SUCH AN APPEAL; AND

5. STATISTICS AND MISCELLANEOUS: NUMBER OF CLAIMS PROCESSED AND DOLLAR BENEFITS PAID IN A GIVEN YEAR.

3. THIS PROJECT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY MR. TERRY DAVIS AND MS. SHIRLEY MCGUIRE, GAO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CINCINNATI REGIONAL OFFICE, WHO WOULD LIKE TO VISIT OTTAWA FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT JULY 10, DATES OF VISIT ARE SUBJECT TO EMBASSY'S CONCURRENCE AND AVAILABILITY OF COGNIZANT CANADIAN OFFICIALS. THE GAO WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS WITH THE APPROPRIATE CANADIAN OFFICIALS AND INFORMING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO COORDINATE THIS WORK WITH THE TEAM. THE GAO IS AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR, TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE EMBASSY AND EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE.

4. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GAO AND TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF 4 FAM 930-934. ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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5. THE DEPARTMENT CERTIFIES THAT MR. DAVIS AND MS. MCGUIRE HAVE CURRENT SECRET SECURITY CLEARANCES.

6. TRAVEL PLANS AND DATES HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED WILL BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED IN PARA 3 HAVE BEEN MADE. CHRISTOPHER

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